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The Path of Safety.

A great many honest hesitators will perhaps be overtaken before election day by the thought that the installation of TAFT may divest the immediate future of two of its most urgent and demoralizing terrors. Assuming that the Democratic party still retains the faculty of returning to the counsels of common sense and self-respect, it will mark the final extinction of Bryanism. Assuming that the Republican party, after a few years of peace, tranquillity and reasonable conduct, will resume its original attitude in respect of the orderly and sane processes of government, it will dispose forever of Rooseveltism.

To elect BRYAN is to continue if not to intensify the appalling business disturbances of the past few years and, even worse than that, to insure the return to calamitous activity of the scourge now under temporary restraint in the White House. To elect TAFT is to inaugurate a lucid interval in which we may recover our breath, readjust our senses and renew a long lost familiarity with the conventions of security and law. We commend these considerations to such voters as still possess the mental balance required to weigh them properly.

After all, the Constitution survives.

Adjusting the Net.

Optimistic as Mr. BRYAN is by nature, experience has taught him that crowded meetings, cheering marchers and gratifying straw votes do not mean ballots in the box. If elected Mr. BRYAN has promised not to be a candidate in 1912, but he has made no pledge conditioned on his defeat. What better reason for a nomination in 1912 than defeat this year through corrupt means? A favorite device of Mr. BRYAN's this, and one he does not intend to neglect. In Alton, Illinois, on Monday he said:

"Now come out the contributions from the great corporations that are interested in legislation. What can they (the Republicans) do with this money now? They need it to use on election day as they have used it year after year, and I charge that they are now preparing to purchase this election."

Obviously the only persons whose votes are worth buying are those who plan to vote for BRYAN. Mr. BRYAN drapes the honey of his confidence in the plain people on their devoted heads in every public utterance. Yet he tells them they are purchasable, ready to sell out their principles, to bargain away their votes. This is what he would mean if he were sincere. Sincerity does not hamper him, however. He knows he is going to be defeated, and he is spreading a net to break his fall and allow him to land in condition to claim the nomination in 1912.

Cuba's Political Campaign.

We hear no tales of apathy in connection with Cuba's political campaign. The rival candidates are in the field as ours are. Registration closed on Monday last and is reported as unusually heavy. There is as yet no reason to think that either side will withdraw before the final test at the polls, a custom not uncommon in Latin America and illustrated in the Cuban campaigns of 1901 and 1905. It is already reported that frauds in registration are alleged, and there are many who believe that the election will be followed by a whirlwind of such charges. In fact, in the absence of specific issues, the campaign is particularly rich in charges and recriminations.

The mail brings us a long communication on sheets which carry the printed heading of the executive committee of the Conservative party. Several pages are devoted to an effort to inform us fully and clearly with regard to the respective parties and their claims and qualities. Several other pages are devoted to the submission of twelve specific charges of interference by the Provisional Government in ways that are injurious to the Conservatives and helpful to the Liberals. They assert that official neutrality is a form, a mere appearance, and not a fact. They declare that "the policy of intimidation which the Liberal party is pursuing in order to win has the indirect but positive aid of the Provisional Government." We sincerely hope that there is no foundation for these charges, and are disposed to regard them as the delusions of political enthusiasts. One influence that leads us to the adoption of such a conclusion is the fact of the receipt of Liberal charges of official favoritism to the Conservatives.

If there really is any influence exerted from the Palace, either by the Provisional Governor or by any of his staff or by any one so associated with the Administration that his words or acts may be regarded as representing the official attitude, it should be terminated summarily. There is only one proper administrative attitude toward the Cuban elections, and that is—hands off absolutely. There should be no interference, act or word that can be regarded as either advantageous or prejudicial to Liberal or Conservative.

In its routine processes the Cuban election includes the choice of electors who will vote for a President and Vice-President, electors who will vote for Senators, and Representatives whose selection will be made under the new law providing for minority representation. The Presidential electors will be 106 in number, apportioned by provinces as follows: Pinar del Rio, 14; Havana, 26; Matanzas, 14; Santa Clara, 23; Camaguey, 9, and Oriente (Santiago) 22. The Senate will have 24 members and the House 82 members. Representatives are chosen by direct vote and senators by colleges composed of electors doubling in number the councilmen to which the respective provinces are entitled.

At the present time indications point to the success of the Liberals. They are fairly certain to carry the provinces of Havana and Santa Clara, which would give them 47 votes out of a needed 54, and there is a doubt of the ability of their opponents to carry the remaining four provinces which the Conservatives seemingly must carry if they are to win.

The task of the Provisional Government, and it will be by no means an easy task, is to insure an election so fair in its every process and so certain in its results that the unsuccessful party will have no shadow of ground on which to rest charges of defeat by fraudulent acts or on which to base assertions that its defeat was due to direct or indirect influence of American officials.

Such charges, with perhaps only too much ground for them, were brought in the days of General Wood, in 1901. There should be no possible place for them in 1908.

Mr. Bryan Throws Up the Sponge.

On Monday Mr. BRYAN made only sixteen speeches. He seems to have lowered the record unconsciously in order to reach his sacred number, the immortal "rasho," as it used to be called by the Hon. RICHARD CROKER, who has just subscribed liberally to the campaign. And if the glorious cartwheel Dollar of our Daddies is no longer the sun and centre of Mr. BRYAN's world of ideas, yet we hear the same whine of virtuous indignation and the same hypocritical apology for coming defeat that he made the country weary of in the time of his silver perihelion; and also when he was swinging dizzily between silver paramount and paramount imperialism. Read and perpend:

"Within the last few days the money has commenced to pour in to the Republican committee. Now come out the contributions from the great corporations that are interested in legislation. What can they do with this money now? They need it to use on election day as they have used it year after year, and I charge that they are now preparing to purchase this election."

This is what he was saying in 1896, and ever since he was licked in 1896. No matter how many electoral or popular votes are cast against him; no matter if he has reduced the Democratic party to little more than a not too solid South, which has no use for him; no matter how often or how strongly the country says no to him; he must still prattle of fraud and corruption and intimidation. He never will admit that he can be beaten fairly. He never can understand, or he pretends not to understand, why, after the multitudes of multitudes that he has drawn by his oratory, his eloquence and his acting, he fares so ill in the count. So the election is "bought."

This year, when the Republicans find that raising a sufficient campaign fund is about as hard work as collecting hens' teeth, Mr. BRYAN's yawn is particularly inept. What "great corporations" are contributing? None. There is a law—Mr. BRYAN still has trouble in recollecting it—against such contributions by corporations, and they have been bled and clubbed too much in the last seven years to volunteer subscriptions.

Mr. BRYAN's inquiry as to why the money is needed now is too infantile, even for him. When should it be needed most but on election day? Rightly or wrongly, it is a habit, forbidden by no law, and come to be regarded as necessary, to "get out the vote," to bring the voters, especially in farming and thinly settled districts, to the polls. In the North the Democrats are fortunate in having a large urban vote. Yet they too hand out the money near the close of the campaign. When does Mr. BRYAN think that Democratic money in this State, for instance, makes glad the hands of the faithful?

One party is as scrupulous as the other. Each will spend all the money it can. But "the purchase of elections" is nonsense. There is no money to do it, at least on the Republican side. Finally, political managers have become aware that to bribe a voter is to pay a man to vote his own ticket. So political virtue is a necessity.

But we repeat what everybody knows. We judge from Mr. BRYAN's "purchase the election" talk that he has already thrown up the sponge.

claims arising out of the suppression of Eastern Rumelia's tribute and the seizure of the Oriental Railway. If by a private agreement between the two countries these claims can be adjusted to Turkey's satisfaction, and if an understanding between Austria and Turkey concerning the annexation of Bosnia can be similarly reached, there will be nothing left for a conference to do but to place the seal of regularity and legitimacy on the political changes that have taken place. We would not undertake for a moment, however, the importance of such legitimization if any value is to attach to treaties hereafter.

It seems, according to our London correspondent, that in dispelling the cloud which suddenly had darkened the relations of Bulgaria and Turkey and had caused orders and counter orders for mobilization on both sides, it was Russia who played the part of *deus ex machina* by notifying the Sofia Government that its invasion of Macedonia would be followed forthwith by the movement of a Russian army across the Danube. In the twinkling of an eye the sky was cleared and a vehement craving for peace displaced an appetite for war in the minds of the Bulgarians, who suddenly discovered that Turkey's rights in the Oriental Railway would not be overlooked and that even the question of remuneration for the suppressed tribute of East Rumelia would have to be a subject of discussion. It should be borne in mind that this tribute has hitherto been set aside for the benefit of certain creditors of Turkey and that it would embarrass the Ottoman Government at this time to apply other sources of revenue to that purpose. If the two financial problems can be solved it is not of much importance to Turkey whether Bulgaria's complete autonomy is or is not transformed into a status of actual independence.

There is no doubt that Russia showed herself a true friend of Turkey in this business. Had Constantinople itself been imperilled by an advance of the Bulgarian army, which is in a state of comparative readiness, there is too much reason to fear that the reactionary faction in the Ottoman capital would have been able to discredit the Young Turks, and the new Constitution might have shared the fate which overtook its predecessor in 1877. Already had Russia furnished another proof of friendliness by consenting not to raise before the conference the question of the freedom of navigating the Dardanelles. In truth there seems to be just now a sort of competition between some of the great Powers to testify their sympathy with Turkey's effort at self-regeneration.

Great Britain sent a squadron of warships to coerce Greece into refusing to ratify the incorporation of Crete and to hinder attempts at secession in Samos and other Greek islands of the Aegean. Germany has announced that she will not enter a conference in which any subject is offered for discussion to which Turkey objects.

All this is very pleasing to the on-looker who appreciates the extreme importance of averting war in southeastern Europe, of giving Turkey an opportunity of establishing religious equality and representative institutions, and of doing what is possible to save at least a remnant of the sacredness with which treaties have hitherto been supposed to be invested.

The Real Issue.

"The real issue of the campaign," said Mr. TAFT at Baltimore, "is whether you think the Republican party by what it has done in the last twelve years is entitled to your confidence." Thus does he put together the fat years and the lean, McKinleyism and Rooseveltism, and ask for a verdict on the merits.

So far as the Republican party has been swallowed by Mr. ROOSEVELT, in so far as it is not entitled to the confidence of the country. On the record of the last seven years it does not deserve that confidence.

But whatever Rooseveltism is and however regrettable it is that Mr. TAFT's candidacy was forced, the real issue is: Is TAFT or BRYAN likely to make the better, the safer President? Which is fitter for the office? Which is the more worthy of public confidence?

It would not occur to Mr. TAFT, a man of invincible modesty, to put the question in that form. Yet that is how it strikes a great many admirers of Judge TAFT, at least in those parts, who wouldn't borrow money to buy incense for the shrine of his patron.

The Wider Fifth Avenue.

Contemplation of the present results of the attempt to widen Fifth Avenue is certain to arouse mixed emotions in the minds of loyal New Yorkers. The sight of those parts of the sidewalk from which the stoops have been removed gives an impression of space that adds a new distinction to the street. There seems for the first time an artistic proportion between the width of the sidewalk and the number of pedestrians who are likely to make use of it.

It is unfortunate that these improved conditions cannot be permanent. The reverse of the cheering picture is to be seen on the other side of Fifth avenue. In front of the new library building the sidewalk has been reduced to its permanent width. The roadway is by this arrangement made much broader. But the sidewalks seem to be little more spacious than the pavements of lower Broadway. It appears that they possess in reality only a foot more of average width than the downtown sidewalk. So the gain to Fifth Avenue when the law has been fully complied with will lie almost wholly in the roadway. The pressure of traffic that passes there will undoubtedly be relieved, but there will be no noticeable improvement for those on foot.

Former efforts to restrict the character of the traffic on Fifth Avenue have not been successful, although it must be kept in mind that they were made before office to traffic rules had become a habit in New York. Similar attempts that were not unjust in their action to the residents of other streets would probably meet with success if made now. Some such restriction of traffic and limitation of the use of Fifth avenue seems to be the only hope for that thoroughfare. So long as the street is open to vehicles of every kind no possible increase to the width of the roadway will work any permanent good. It is the opinion of many who have devoted time and thought to the question that Fifth avenue can be made most valuable to the city by restricting the roadway traffic to certain lighter vehicles and allowing the sidewalks the benefit of the greater width they may acquire by the enforcement of the stoop line law.

Just as there is a limit to the amount of water that can be pushed through a pipe of a certain bore, so there always is a limit to the traffic that may pass through an avenue of certain width.

Our candidates represent peace, dignity, moderation, Senator KNOTX of Philadelphia and Mr. TAFT.

Then they do not represent Rooseveltism, that is plain.

Now that the Congo State retires from the family of nations to become a Belgian colony it is interesting to observe that her new status, as outlined by the Belgian Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, bids fair to conduce to the welfare of that great region and its native inhabitants. According to the annexation agreement the natives cannot be constrained to work for any individual or concessionary company. While this will put an end to coercion, there is little fear that it will diminish the labor supply, for tens of thousands of natives are now working for the whites because their wages add to the comforts of life.

These Belgian Ministers say that the concessions of land to rubber and mining companies embrace only one-fifth of the colonial domain and that the native is not to be deprived of his land holdings or prevented from freely selling his products. Belgium assumes all the obligations incurred by the Congo State and will adopt such measures as other colonial Powers employ to prevent ruinous exploitation of any part of the country, will conserve the rights and liberties of the natives, will protect the commerce and trade, protect missionaries of all faiths and place merchants of all nations on a parity with Belgian traders.

Every feature of the colonial policy to be pursued which forms a part of the annexation agreement promises fair, and the good repute of Belgium is involved in her faithful performance of the obligations she has assumed. Under a good colonial system the prospects are bright for rapid development in the colony. Its vast resources and millions of laborers, with foreign capital ready for investment when properly safeguarded, should make the Congo State one of the richest and most prosperous parts of Africa.

I do not know the situation, but from what little I do know BRYAN is going to make some of the cockroaches forefathers all up and take notice before the end—Senator THOMSON.

As the Senator admits that for weeks at a time he has seen no newspapers during his sojourn abroad, his "tip" affords mighty little encouragement to Mr. BRYAN.

There is a story extant about a New York man being driven out of the city by its deafening clatter. He sailed to Europe, and as a modern steamship is hardly a haven of quiet the man's nerves were no better. When he reached London he pulled himself together; in Paris he had a relapse; in Berlin he was quite ill, but at Weimar he found that peace which passeth all understanding. After three days he began to look out of his hotel window when a dog barked. In a week he shot a rooster that crowed at midday. When ten days had passed a hot fit of desire shook his frame. He neither ate nor drank. He only yearned. A week later he stood at the noisiest corner of Broadway and ecstatically swallowed in the sound. He could not live without it. When the equivalent of MACAULAY's New Zealanders stands on the Esquimo—he may fairly recall the aboriginal New Yorker as a man who worshipped noise.

"There should be cooking classes in the boys' high school instead of the girls' school," was the terrific declaration made by Dr. ROBERT THOMPSON at a recent mothers' meeting in Philadelphia. Women, he asserted, are not physically fitted to struggle with the skillet and frying pan. The men of the family should prepare the meals. It does seem hard after a day's work that a man instead of sitting down to a dyspepsia breeding meal or a blissful domestic banquet—as may be the case; either one may start in frying with onions or else fabricate a ragout à la yesterday. Will he do it? Will he work double shifts; cook the breakfast, prepare a dainty luncheon—before leaving the house for his day's vocation—and walk the floor at night with the colicky heir of his home? And what will his wife be at while he pares potatoes and reads in frantic haste that he must salt roast beef during its stay in the oven? Of course she will be running the political affairs of the nation; for when husbands cook, wives will hold high office. But did the worthy Philadelphia physician tell his audience that the best cooks have been and still are men? His other statement that the profession of medicine and surgery should belong "almost entirely to women" will be hailed by some persons as words of wisdom.

Dr. THOMPSON should lecture in Chicago.

A False Prophet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What's the use of voting? Roosevelt will eat "Dear Will" no matter who gets the most votes.

PATRICK MCMAHON.
NIAGARA FALLS, October 20.

The Joy of Feminine Curves.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Hurray for the woman who is not a fat! Am in the same boat. Guess we will have to be hauled by the back of the neck. The dressmakers of Paris are inspired by the poster and mission furniture, and I do not intend to roll around on the floor of my bedroom or help the rubber tapper by buying a bagpipe to reduce my hips.

Let's form a club—who's next?
NEW YORK, October 19. Mrs. HIPPO.

Unnecessary Trouble.

Kicker—It is rumored that Roosevelt will investigate the Congo when in Africa.
Kicker—Why not send Jimmie Reynolds?

Symbols.

Stella—What will you give her for a wedding present?
Bella—A loving cup; it has three handles to its name.

Politics.

Kicker—Torchlight rallies arouse enthusiasm.
Kicker—But not lightning once.

THE SOCIALIST IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The interesting correspondence recently published as having taken place more than two years and a half ago between the President and his Secretary of War sheds light on the latter's changed attitude toward Roosevelt and Bryan.

Under the belief that Mr. Taft did not like his work in the War Office and preferred a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court the President offered to him the vacancy to be created by Justice Brown. After the President had explained to the Secretary of War "the part to be played by the Supreme Court in the next twenty-five years" the offer was rejected.

In the course of that explanation the President wrote to Mr. Taft that he was unhappy over "the social conditions existing in 1906, because of the great rich, who had prospered by the help of the judges, and of the shortsightedness of the judges, or by their unfortunate possession of meticulous minds," had promoted an "enormous increase in the socialist propaganda."

The affirmation by the President of weakness, shortsightedness, timidity and fear in the Federal magistracy, and an implied intimation to Mr. Taft that he would be expected to remedy such defects, seem to have contributed to the refusal of a seat on the Federal bench and to have persuaded the Secretary of War to continue his devotion to the Filipino until at least the next Presidential scramble came on.

President Roosevelt intimated very distinctly to Mr. Taft in 1906 that he had decided to lead in person the forces of socialism and populism against the rich to whom he referred, with a delegation of leadership to the Secretary of War later on in the warfare, and accompanied the intimation with a declaration of the part to be played by the Supreme Court.

It will be helpful to one seeking to ascertain the contents of the President's mind in 1906 to read again his annual message to Congress of the previous December, which dealt at length with corporations. Therein he wrote to Congress:

"Experience has shown conclusively that it is impossible to get any adequate regulation and supervision of these great corporations by State action. I believe that this regulation and supervision can be obtained by the enactment of law by the Congress of the United States. It will certainly be necessary ultimately to confer, in fullest form, such power upon the national Government by a proper amendment of the Constitution. The power of the Congress to regulate interstate commerce, as passed upon by the courts, has resulted more often in showing that the States have no power in the matter than that the national Government has power."

The intimation to Mr. Taft was plain that the Supreme Court would be expected to find the needed power in Congress to take over the control of State corporations out of which prosperity offensive to Socialists had come. It was natural for the Secretary of War to draw back from a place on the bench upon these terms.

The partisan plot of the President to displace Bryan, Debs, Watson and all the others from command of the forces of Socialism and assume control of the campaign against corporations in behalf of Populists and Socialists was shrewd. As President he could keep in hand the Republican party and add thereto the Socialist propaganda, which in 1906 was, he wrote to Mr. Taft, badly handled.

The President persuaded himself that by taking control of the Socialist warfare against rich men he could "combat the great amount of evil" threatened by Bryan, Debs and the others. His logic was simple: Congress has power to regulate interstate commerce, including its instrumentalities; therefore Congress can control the corporations and persons producing commercial articles and conducting interstate sales and transportation thereof. From such logic Taft and the Chicago convention recoiled.

Bryan, a month ago, interposed against the President's fierce denunciation of Governor Haskell this plaintive plea: "I have assisted you to the extent of my ability in remedial measures which I deemed for the public good which you have undertaken; I have urged Democrats to support such measures, and I have advocated more radical measures against the trusts than you or your party associates have been willing to undertake. The platform of the Democratic party is clear and specific on this subject, as are, on others, while the platform of the Republican party is uncertain and evasive."

Roosevelt harked back to the Taft letter and answered in effect that Bryan had in the interest of nationalism been by him deposed from leadership of the forces of Populism and Socialism because:

"In my judgment the measures you advocate would be wholly ineffective in curing a single evil, and so far as they had to do with the future of the nation they would be utterly hopeless and utter confusion."

The reply was true and conclusive, but Taft probably felt like saying "a plague on both of you!"
NEW YORK, October 20.

Roosevelt Makes a Vote for Bryan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Permit me to express my intention at the outset of my career to vote for Bryan at the next Presidential election. I have been a Republican for many years, but I have been a Democrat for many years, and I have been a Socialist for many years. I have been a Republican for many years, but I have been a Democrat for many years, and I have been a Socialist for many years. I have been a Republican for many years, but I have been a Democrat for many years, and I have been a Socialist for many years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "Tremont" complains that the Post Office rules require a stamp to be paid on a letter to entitle it to be forwarded at once by mail. The writer further alleges that the requirement that notice of short paid or unpaid matter be sent to address involves unnecessary work on postal employees, and urges that this force be done away with by "collecting at point of destination," even when no stamp at all has been used to a letter. Having in past years been a long experience both as the postmaster of a large city and an official of the Department here, I can perhaps see some features of the service not visible to the average citizen. To forward unpaid matter to the addressee would be to return to the practice of sixty years ago, when it was well known universal, which has long been forbidden by law. In those days, nearly all postage on letters was paid on delivery, it paid at all. Much of it was not paid at all, through the leniency of postmasters, much of that which was paid was never returned to the Department, through the defective accounting methods.

UNIFORM INSCRIPTIONS.

Chaldean, Babylonian and Assyrian Collections. In the Library of the British Museum Catalogued by the Rev. C. H. W. Johns, M. A., Lecturer in Assyriology in Queens' College, Cambridge.

Mr. Hope W. Hogg in the Review of Theology and Philosophy for October.

It is little use to insist upon the constant destruction of objects of scientific value (after they have been safely buried for thousands of years) in the critical time that follows their discovery or acquisition in some other way by uneducated natives of the East. What is wanted is some satisfactory way of preventing that fate.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan has taken an important step in rescuing from further risk a large number of Babylonian antiquities by securing them for his library. The researcher assured on the point of safety in anxious next about accessibility. Mr. W. Hayes Ward in a "Foreword" to the little volume that lies before us dispels any anxiety on that point; he believes that Mr. Morgan's chief object in what he is doing is to put within reach of scholars the material necessary for adding to the knowledge of the world. Unless our impression of them is very far wrong the scholars will not be slow to avail themselves of their opportunity.

In this book Mr. C. H. W. Johns skillfully displays some choice things the collection contains. The 150 tablets (largely from Tellah) listed on pp. 41-47, which once belonged to Professor Scheil, are referred to as M. and the 243 largely First Dynasty tablets listed on pp. 48-51, which formerly belonged to the Sheikh of Abu Habba, as N. The collection M. contains many extremely interesting documents, which Scheil has been publishing from time to time. In the "Introduction" (pp. 11-37), Mr. Johns gives a summary of these with references to the places where the texts are to be found (a service that must have cost him some work), and calls attention to others that await publication, e. g., a legend (13), fragments of inscriptions of Assyrian kings (40, 142, 143), an inscription mentioning Samuili (134). The larger collection (N) is all so far unpublished, and Mr. Johns does not forestall the editor or editors, contenting himself with giving in translation one inscription that happens to be a copy of a text already known. The 116 First Dynasty tablets in this (N) collection are chiefly from the last three reigns (nine from that of Samuili), but represent all reigns except the first, and every second tablet makes a fresh contribution. Of the 116 tablets, 100 are forty-two dates from the early pre-Sargonic period at Tellah; at least seven belong to the reign of Dungi. One tablet (40) "makes known a new king, Ammikanak, and another (13) represents some new dynasty."

Two tablets containing references to the horse come opportunely to support the text published by Ungnad (O.L.Z., December, 1907, probably after Mr. Johns wrote). Like it, although I presume unfortunately, they are approximately of the Hammurabi period, and are interesting, as Edward Meyer has pointed out, in connection with the new facts revealed by the Boghaz Keui documents, and (one may add) those recently published by King. Naturally most of the texts are records of transactions (accounts, etc.), but a few are of other kinds. There are religious texts (31+73+40 lines), one a magical text and one possibly "historical." Two come from Bismaya (we are glad to see that Mr. Johns adopts this spelling; the name Bismaya is quite misleading on this side of the Atlantic).

If we are thankful to Mr. Morgan for securing these tablets, our gratitude is no less due to Mr. Johns, especially for the promptness with which he has issued the account of them.

Mr. Johns obviously has the laudable purpose of awakening wider interest in the studies to which he has himself made such valuable contributions, and Mr. Morgan is to be congratulated on securing the collection of so skilled a scholar. Possible recruits may, however, be deterred by the fact that the fragment N 156 can well be found at Babylon (B) as well as at Sippar (A), and it may not occur to them that B, like S, H, T, U, etc., elsewhere, is a name for a place, and not a designated year of reign. Similarly, a reader may wonder how a son of Ashur-hani-pal can possibly have spoken in a charter (page 34), of Sennacherib as his grandfather. He did not mention any grandfather. It is one of Mr. Johns' careful sides to the X, Z, which "Sennacherib" may stand by as an easy slip for "Esarhaddon." The student sometimes is inclined to wish that, at the risk of boring the general reader, some of the statements were a little more precise as to which of the two cities, Babylon or Sippar, the tablets spoken of, although in some cases a little investigation decides the matter. Presumably the M collection is distinguished from the N collection as Chaldean from Babylonian, because so much of it came from the southern city, Tellah. The two plates showing the valuable early Deluge tablet, published by Scheil some ten years ago, are welcome; the frontispiece, of course, shows the reverse. We hope that before long Mr. Johns will be doing much more for the advancement of Assyriology than appears in print, may have occasion to give us more of the same, and that Mr. Morgan's example will prove stimulating—not only in America.

The Statistics of Pole Hunting.

The International Polar Commission, created at the Polar Congress held in Brussels in 1906, has just published a résumé of all the Arctic and Antarctic enterprises of which any record could be found since 1800. There were 174 expeditions directed against the North Pole and only 61 toward the South. They were divided as respects the nationality of the explorers as follows:

	Arctic	Antarctic
Germany	107	25
England	107	25
Argentina Republic	6	2
Austria-Hungary	6	2
Danmark	27	1
Norway	78	1
United States	84	12
France	19	1
Holland	16	1
Italy	3	1
Sweden	3	1
Spain	3	1
Sweden	35	1

The Campaign Fund.

The campaign manager sat in his chair. And his heart sank into his boots to see Before him the shade of an empty purse With never a cent where the counts should be. And remorseless November creeping on. And a stiff-necked peripatetic who won't be bled But sticks to their wads and declines to be saved At the paltry cost of a dollar a head.

He sighed as he thought of the days of old. The frolicsome days of the long ago. When all the manager had to do Was to tap the rock and the oil would flow. But nowadays 'tis another tale. The spout is dried, and the well won't flow. So there's a hitch, and the noblest of nobles Has nothing to grease 'em and make 'em go. For the Goose of the Golden Eggs is dead, And naught remains for the manager man But this moral: "Don't sit on two stools," and then, "If you don't lose your oil, don't smash the can." V. B.

Recognition.

When Bryan comes to make a speech It always makes a hit. It venerable sage help To make his welcome sit— So on the platform we behold A Jackson voter sit.

SURROGATE BECKETT.

His Special Qualifications Recounted by an Old Associate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: As an assistant attorney I was for three years associated with Charles H. Beckett, the present Republican candidate for the office of Surrogate. Although that connection terminated ten years ago and I have met him but once since, yet I formed a high conception of his ability and worth, and I am glad to have the opportunity to express my opinion of him in your columns in which to address a few words to those who may have the privilege of casting their votes for him this fall.

Judge Beckett is a man of full courage, resourceful, energetic, of enormous industry, with a finely fibred, highly trained mind. In all matters within the scope of the Surrogate's Court his experience has been wide, and that regard at least his learning is profound. He possesses unusually keen perceptions, has a very broad and true sense of justice, is exceptionally quick to grasp the essential of most complicated and perplexing cases, and is absolutely incorruptible.

As a Surrogate Beckett offers peculiar opportunities for